

EX. PLF K



FORENSIC ANALYSIS OF IPHONE

Prepared at the direction of Counsel

May 5, 2025

by:

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Examination Requested

Identify evidence of WhatsApp and text message deletions.

Item Examined

1. “**Apple_A3081 iPhone 16**” is an Advanced Logical File System extraction of an Apple A3081 iPhone 16, serial number CWYKJVXHX6; SHA256 hash value: A54F25817A3BDAB60356B00984EFFEDA5DD4D4DF270E511AB5FA4849A23FF58E ; Custodian: Milagro Jeffries; created by FTI Director Jeremy Thomas on April 9, 2025.

Findings

DataUsage.sqlite

"DataUsage.sqlite" is a database file that stores usage statistics for apps and system services on the iPhone device. It is used by the operating system to track the amount of cellular and Wi-Fi data consumed by different processes over time. A "DataUsage.sqlite" was identified in the following directory:

- /wireless/Library/Databases/

A review of the "DataUsage.sqlite" file determined that WhatsApp was uploading and downloading data over Wi-Fi on the following days:

- 3/18/2025
- 3/11/2025
- 10/27/2024
- 9/8/2024
- 1/28/2024
- 9/11/2023
- 7/4/2023

Attachment A contains a extraction of the WhatsApp entries detailing the bytes transferred in and out of the device using Wi-Fi.

net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.ServiceExtension

“net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.ServiceExtension” is a component of WhatsApp that handles specific services such as background tasks and notifications. A “net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.ServiceExtension” was identified in the following directory:

- /mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/group.com.facebook.family/_apps/

A review of the file determined it was created on October 12, 2023.

sms.db

“sms.db” is a database file that stores text messages, multimedia messages (MMS), and iMessages. It is central to the Messages app and enables iPhone iOS to organize and manage user communications. A “sms.db” was identified in the following directory:

- /mobile/Library/SMS/

An analysis of the "sms.db" for message deletions was performed. The analysis involved determining which row IDs were missing as a result of message deletions and approximately when were the deleted message chats sent and received.

Attachment B contains the summary of the missing row IDs.

com.apple.MobileSMS.plist

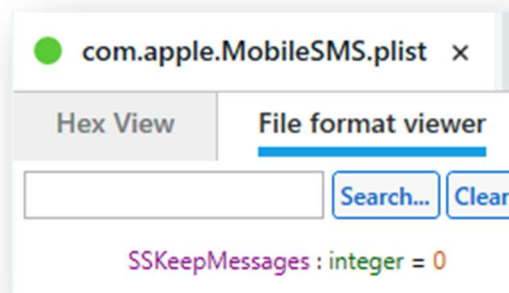
The file "com.apple.MobileSMS.plist" is a property list file used by iPhone iOS for configuration settings related to the Messages app. It stores the configuration setting for message retention preference which controls how long the iPhone should retain or auto delete messages from the “sms.db” file.

A “com.apple.MobileSMS.plist” was identified in the following directory:

- /mobile/Library/Preferences/

A review of the file determined the messages were configured to retained Forever (integer = 0).

Below is a screenshot of the corresponding setting:



com.apple.MobileBackup.plist

The "com.apple.MobileBackup.plist" file is a configuration file in iOS that stores settings and metadata related to backups managed by Apple's systems, such as iCloud Backup or local backups via Finder (macOS) or iTunes (Windows).

A “com.apple.MobileBackup.plist” was identified in the following directory:

- /mobile/Library/Preferences/

A review of the file determined that on March 10, 2025 a restore of the iPhone was performed from a computer backup.

Conclusion

- Evidence was identified that WhatsApp was not installed at the time of data collection.
- Evidence was identified that WhatsApp was communicating over the Wi-Fi network between July 4, 2023 and March 18, 2025.
- Evidence was identified that a WhatsApp service extension was installed on October 12, 2023.
- Evidence was identified showing thousands of SMS messages were deleted between December 11, 2019 and April 9, 2025.
- Evidence was identified showing a restoration of a backup was performed on March 10, 2025.